



Hermosa Beach City Manager's Office City Council Meeting Recap 07.09.19

A brief recap of important items discussed during the July 9, 2019 City Council meeting is provided below:

July 9, 2019 ([Meeting Agenda](#))

Swearing In of New Police Sergeant Jonathan Sibbald – Mayor Armato administered the oath of office to Sergeant Jonathan Sibbald, who has served with the Hermosa Beach Police Department for 17 years—congratulations Jon!



Recognizing the Hermosa Tortuga Organization – Council recognized the youth founders of [Hermosa Tortuga](#), a non-profit organization that performs beach cleanups, advocates for the elimination of single-use plastics and raises funds to support sea turtles. Pictured at right: Maya, Thea and Ella Welch.



4th of July - Public Safety Recap – Acting Police Chief Milton McKinnon and Assistant Fire Chief Scott Hale reported on a busy, but successful and family-friendly Independence Day holiday, with Los Angeles County Lifeguards estimating a beach crowd of 200,000. A magnitude 6.4 earthquake centered near Ridgecrest occurred at 10:33 a.m. with no damage or injuries reported in Hermosa Beach. Chief Hale advised fire service calls increased to 17 from 5 last year, but were relatively uneventful. Chief McKinnon reported there were 142 police calls with 6 arrests, a significant drop from the 193 calls received in 2017 and 166 calls in 2018. Law enforcement support to supplement the



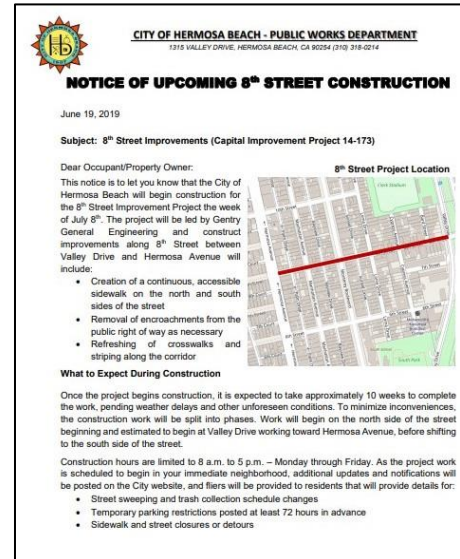
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Hermosa Beach Police Department was provided by the Culver City and Hawthorne Police Departments and Los Angeles County Sheriff.

City Manager Updates:

City Manager Suja Lowenthal provided updates on the following items:

- **8th Street Construction Update** – staging for 8th Street sidewalk and street improvements from Valley Drive to Hermosa Avenue commenced July 8, 2019 and construction will run 10 weeks through mid-September 2019; please visit our [website](#) for project information and updates.
- **2019 Summer Beach Concert Series Update** – event producer 5B Artists + Media is finalizing the talent lineup for August weekend concerts with an official announcement expected next week.
- **Public Works Director Recruitment Update** – the City received applications from 39 qualified candidates by the June 28, 2019 deadline; interviews are planned for the first week in August and a new Public Works Director is expected to be onboard in early September.
- **Sewer Improvements** – staff will return to Council at a future meeting to award a bid which closed on July 9, 2019 to perform approximately \$1.9 million in sewer improvements throughout the City, including 1,800 linear feet of sewer replacements, 7,300 linear feet of sewer lining and rehabilitation of 59 manholes.
- **New City Staff** – the City is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Associate Engineer Romany Basilyous (Public Works) and Code Enforcement Officer Anthony Padilla (Community Development)—welcome aboard!



Cypress District – Council directed staff to return with agenda items for a code amendment for the Cypress District to address required special event permitting and an interim measure for consideration at future Council meetings.

Public Hearing: Property Tax Special Assessment for Delinquent Solid Waste Collection Charges – Council adopted a resolution authorizing and requesting the County Assessor to place delinquent Athens Services refuse charges as of March 31, 2019 and unpaid as of July 19, 2019 as a special assessment for collection as part of the County tax collection process.



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Public Hearing: Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Hermosa Beach Landscaping and Street Lighting District -

Council adopted a resolution to levy a property tax assessment of \$41.45 per dwelling unit (same rate since 1997-1998) to fund City parkway/median landscaping, street lighting and traffic signal maintenance from July 2019 to June 2020. Council directed staff to return with an agenda item to revisit the assessment in light of the annual subsidy required from the City's General Fund since 2003-2004. For Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the subsidy is estimated at \$175,932 or 38% of the \$459,103 expected to be collected from assessment proceeds. Altering the assessment would require a City election by mail with greater than 50% of votes by Hermosa Beach property owners supporting the change.

Public Hearing: Council Review of Slater's 50/50 Restaurant Modifications Approved by the Planning

Commission – Council adopted two resolutions sustaining the Planning Commission's May 21, 2019 decision to approve a conditional use permit and parking plan amendment for Slater's 50/50 restaurant, located at 3-11 Pier Avenue. Pending Coastal Commission approval, the restaurant would expand its outdoor dining area adjacent to the Strand with a corresponding reduction in indoor restaurant space; and modify the 25-space parking lot to include tandem spaces and valet services. The applicant will reduce the outdoor dining space from 774 square feet/19 tables/74 chairs to 702 square feet/12 tables/46 chairs with measures to increase dining area separation from the Strand. To address ocean view concerns, umbrellas for the outdoor dining area will only be available upon request and stored when not in use.

Special Event Fee Waivers – Council approved maximum fee waivers for the following events (50% waivers recommended by staff):

- Alzheimer Association's Alzheimer's Walk at Pier Plaza and the Strand on September 21, 2019 - \$10,763 waiver, \$5,314 more than recommended by staff.
- Arts Group of Hermosa Beach's Art Festival held at the Community Center on June 6-7, 2019 - \$6,162.60 waiver, \$3,006.60 more than recommended by staff.

Transient Occupancy Tax Ballot Measure – Council approved a resolution to include a ballot measure on the November 5, 2019 general municipal election asking voters to increase the City's transient occupancy tax (or "hotel tax") from the current rate of 12% to 14% (>50% vote needed to pass the measure).

Proposition A Local Return Fund Exchange Agreement with the City of West Hollywood – Council continued this item to a future meeting for consideration of an agreement to exchange \$1 million of the City's Proposition A funds, restricted to transit projects only, for \$700,000 in unrestricted funding from the City of West Hollywood.

Regulation of Single Use Plastic Products – Council directed staff to return with an amendment to the Municipal Code to prohibit the use and sale of single use plastics within the City including plastic straws, stirrers and utensils; polystyrene/Styrofoam coolers, egg cartons and meat trays; and Mylar balloons. Similar to previously passed City bans on polystyrene products (cups/food containers) and grocery store/carryout plastic bags, the new restrictions would assist in addressing ocean/marine plastic pollution and landfill overflow in favor of recyclable/green alternatives and would be similar to measures adopted or being considered by other Santa Monica Bay cities including Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Culver City and El Segundo.



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Miscellaneous Items:

- **Boards and Commissions Vacancies** – Council scheduled applicant interviews for the Parks, Recreation and Community Resources Advisory Commission (2 vacancies, 4 applicants), starting at 6 p.m. on July 18, 2019 and the Planning Commission (2 vacancies, 5 applicants), starting at 5 p.m. on August 27, 2019. Council directed the City Clerk to re-advertise two Civil Service Board vacancies for which no applications were received.

Other Matters:

- Councilmember Duclos reported on attendance at a **Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors Beach Commission** meeting and requested staff touch base with Matt Cooney, Supervisor of Parking Enforcement, on parking modernization plans for beach lots.
- Mayor Armato noted the need for a future **Fiesta Hermosa Subcommittee** meeting and requested a future agenda item to consider appointing another Councilmember as Hermosa Beach's representative on the **South Bay Cities Sanitation District Board of Directors**.

A JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND ALL CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT 7 P.M. ON THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019. THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2019.

Questions or comments? Contact the Assistant to the City Manager Nico De Anda-Scaia Monday through Thursday, 7AM – 6PM at (310) 318-0201 or via email at ndeanda@hermosabch.org

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